



INDUSTRY PROFILES

Health Care and Social Assistance Industry

June 2013

Alberta

Overview:

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry¹ in Alberta includes establishments and services such as:

- hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and out-patient care centres;
- offices of health practitioners (i.e. dentists, doctors, optometrists and chiropractors);
- medical and diagnostic laboratories;
- home health care services;
- ambulance services;
- social assistance services (i.e. for children, youth, the elderly, families);
- community food, housing, emergency and relief services;
- vocational rehabilitation services; and
- daycare services.

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¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 62

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2012 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance Industry
Number of employed	2,149,600	228,600
Percent employed in the industry		10.6%
Number of unemployed	103,800	3,400
Unemployment rate	4.6%	1.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2013

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics² or Statistics Canada³ websites.

2. Industry's Growth:

- This industry accounted for 10.6% of total employment in Alberta in 2012.
- Employment in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 2.5% from 2011 to 2015.
- This industry is expected to account for 11.0% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2011 – 2015, Industry Employment Outlook*⁴ online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)⁵ website for descriptions of industries.

² See <http://www.cae.alberta.ca/lmi>

³ See <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

⁴ See <http://cae.alberta.ca/labour-and-immigration/labour-market-information/labour-market-forecasts.aspx>

⁵ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook:

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry accounted for 5.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2011, up from 4.3% in 2001. This industry had the second largest employment in 2012, behind Retail Trade, and its share of Alberta's total employment increased from 9.3% in 2002 to 10.6% in 2012.

Employment in 2012 was 1.6% higher than its level in 2011. Over the last ten years, employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people) increased from 156,200 people in 2002 to 228,600 people in 2012. There were 204,800 employees in the industry in 2012 of whom 86.5% were permanent and 13.5% were temporary. Self-employed people accounted for 10.4% of total employment in the industry in 2012.

Characteristic	Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance
Median Retirement Age (years)	63.7	65.6
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	38.2	34.0
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	5.7%	10.5%
Average Job Tenure (months)	88.8	93.3
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	23.5%	50.0%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	26.0%	19.4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2013, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders in Alberta is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in Alberta by total employment in Alberta. The percentage of multiple jobholders in the Information, Culture and Recreation industry is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in this industry by total employment in this industry. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2012-2016*⁶, employment growth in most occupations in this industry is expected to exceed 2.4%, the average for all occupations.

⁶ See <http://cae.alberta.ca/labour-and-immigration/labour-market-information/labour-market-forecasts.aspx>

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Establishments in Health Care and Social Assistance	
	Number of Employees	%	Number of Employees	%
Less than 20 employees	633,200	35.1%	64,500	31.5%
20 to 99 employees	634,600	35.2%	64,500	31.5%
100 to 500 employees	342,100	19.0%	40,700	19.9%
Over 500 employees	194,400	10.8%	35,100	17.1%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2013

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry include:

- chiropractor;
- dental hygienist;
- emergency medical technician;
- registered nurse; and
- child and youth care worker.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles⁷ website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry in 2012 was as follows:

- women employed: 192,500 people, or 84.2%
- men employed: 36,100 people, or 15.8%

In Alberta, women accounted for 44.8% and men made up 55.2% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Health Care and Social Assistance	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	315,500	14.7%	26,700	11.7%
25-54 years	1,458,300	67.8%	160,100	70.0%
55 years and over	375,800	17.5%	41,700	18.2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2013

⁷ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo>

3. Wages:



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2013

Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Cardiology technologist	\$ 26.85	\$ 32.10	\$ 37.90	\$ 64,512
Registered nurse	\$ 33.52	\$ 40.20	\$ 44.35	\$ 75,366
Dentist	\$ 80.55	\$ 92.58	\$ 171.78	\$ 160,581
Social worker	\$ 25.89	\$ 37.27	\$ 51.55	\$ 62,617

Data Source: 2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the 2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, refer to the WAGEinfo⁸ webpage. For descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, visit the ALIS⁹ website.

⁸ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo>

⁹ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Government and Selected Associations in Industry:

- Alberta Health
(<http://www.health.alberta.ca>)
- Alberta Health Services
(<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca>)
- Alberta Association of Optometrists
(<http://www.optometrists.ab.ca>)
- Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
(<http://www.nurses.ab.ca>)
- Alberta Continuing Care Association
(<http://www.ab-cca.ca>)
- Alberta Medical Association
(<http://www.albertadoctors.org>)
- Alberta Dental Association and College
(<http://www.abda.ab.ca>)
- Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
(<http://www.aupe.org/my-union/health-care>)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
(<http://www.cupe.ca>)
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
(<http://www.hsaa.ca>)
- United Nurses of Alberta
(<http://www.una.ab.ca>)